GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4707
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2002
RIOTS IN GUJARAT
C. KUPPUSAMI;CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat called on the Prime Minister in Delhi during March/April, 2002;

(b) if so, the issues discussed during the meeting;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat sought assistance to deal with the situation arising out of the riots broken out recently in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the assurances given by the Prime Minister alongwith the relief measures announced;

(f) whether the I.S.I. of Pakistan or some foreign forces are behind these riots;

(g) if so, the facts thereof;

(h) the number of persons associated with the incident arrested in various parts of the country;

(i) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to thwart the designs of these forces;and

(j) the measures taken to fulfil the assurances ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) to (e): The Chief Minister of Gujarat called on the Prime Minister recently and discussed the issues arising out of the recent communal riots in Gujarat. The Prime Minister also visited Gujarat on 4-4-2002. Subsequently, the Prime Minister has announced the following measures:-

A. Ex-gratia payment

(i) Ex-gratia payment of Rs. One lakh to the next of kin of deceased from the Prime Minister`s National Relief Fund (PMNRF). This wi be in addition to Rs. 50,000/- already sanctioned by the Government of Gujarat.

(ii) Rs.50,000/- to the permanently disabled/injured. This will also be given from the PMNRF.

B. Relief Camps:

(i) Sanitation, drinking water, general cleanliness in the Relief Camps will be improved by Government of Gujarat.

(ii) The expenditure incurred on food-grains in the relief camps will be borne by the Government of India.

(iii) One set of text books and one set of school uniforms will be given free to children in the relief camps. The expenditure will be reimbursed by the PMNRF.

C. Housing:

(i) In rural areas, an amount upto Rs. 50,000/- will be given for repair/reconstruction of damaged/fully damaged houses. The expenditure will be borne by Government of India.

(ii) In the Urban areas, reconstruction of work for the houses will be taken after a comprehensive survey. It will be ensured that there will be proper urban planning while re-locating communities. The entire expenditure towards this will be borne by the Government of india.

D. In the riot affected areas, BPL (Below Poverty Line) families will be given 35 kg. Food-grains free of cost for the next two months.

E. Shops/factories which have been damaged will be given appropriate assistance after a survey.

F. Government of India will bear the expenditure required to rehabilitate all orphaned children and widows. Smt. Ela Bhat of SEWA has been requested to prepare a scheme/programme for this purpose.

The Prime Minister has directed that Cabinet Secretary will monitor the relief and rehabilitation measures mentioned above on weekly basis.

(f) & (g): The State Government has instituted a Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice K. G. Shah, Retd. Judge of the High Court of Gujarat, under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 and hence involvement of any organisations in these riots would be known only upon the outcome of the Inquiry Report.

(h): So far 32368 have been arrested by the Gujarat Government in these riots.

(i): The activities of all the organisations having a bearing on the communal situation in the country are under constant watch of the law enforcing agencies and requisite legal action is taken wherever necessary.

(j): The Prime Minister has directed that Cabinet Secretary will monitor the relief and rehabilitation measures mentioned above on weekly basis.